

TOWN Reminder

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FREE
October 23, 2020
Vol. 52, No. 24

INDEX

Viewpoints	4
Granby	7
Sports	8
Public Safety	11
Classifieds	10

COMMUNITY, 2

Trust Violated: Soldiers' Home hearings



GRANBY, 7

Granby Preservation Society hosts drive-thru events



SPORTS, 8

Tigers take care of Rams



SOUTH HADLEY, 12

Culinary teacher develops beverage



Sticker shock campaign

*A preventative effort
against underage
drinking, drug use*

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – One in four teens have used prescription medicine at least once to get high, as was determined by a survey conducted by Hampshire HOPE. The same survey revealed that the majority of teenage users get their drugs from family members and parents.

To combat to this reality, the South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Coalition has teamed up with local pizza shops, reiterating to families that drugs and alcohol must be safely stored. Family Pizza on Newton St. and Route33 Pizza on Memorial Dr. are stamping stickers labeled with the reminder onto outgoing pizza boxes.

Coalition Coordinator Susan Cook discussed the Sticker Shock Campaign, which previously partnered with local liquor stores in January. Underage drinking and drug use have become highly prevalent, and many parents are unknowingly the source of the problem.

"Of course, we have marijuana available for purchase in Massachusetts, and if you're not already keeping it in a locked



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

[L to R] SRO Josh Helms, South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition Director Steve Fleming, Coalition Coordinator Sue Cook and Route33 employee Musa Cayan pose outside of the Memorial St. restaurant on Oct. 15 during the Sticker Shock Campaign.

place, you should be," said Cook. "There are youth who are getting their hands on marijuana edibles because they're not locked up, and the packaging looks very enticing. They look like candy."

A 2019 survey polling South Hadley High School sophomores

and seniors discovered that nearly 15% of those students get alcohol from home without parental permission. The same survey found that 32% of students reported using alcohol in the past 30 days; 5.5% of the seniors used prescription drugs.

Steve Fleming, a retired South Hadley police officer, spent the past eight years as a student resource officer inside of the high school. When he retired this spring, he jumped at the opportunity

Please see **CAMPAIGN**, page 6

BOH blocks North Pole Estates decision

By Walter Hamilton
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The town's Board of Health won't allow construction of North Pole Estates subdivision atop the District 2 public water supply recharge area because the developer has refused to show how the project will not prevent injury to the health of residents.

The board's Oct. 13 decision effectively blocked the subdivision because the Planning Board

Please see **BOH**, page 12

Ledges makes most of COVID summer

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The Ledges Golf Course on Mulligan Dr. made the most of a season that presented challenges in droves. Course Superintendent Mike Fontaine appeared on the Oct. 20 virtual Selectboard meeting to discuss how the operation overcame a number of obstacles brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"How do you manage a golf course with COVID? That's the hardest question I think that we'll ever have to answer. It's a fine line between customer service and explaining to everyone the rules and regulations, especially when they sometimes change on a weekly basis," said Fontaine.



Archive photo

In this week's Selectboard meeting, Ledges Golf Course Superintendent Mike Fontaine answered questions about the operations of the town-owned course.

For all those who visited the town-owned course this summer, the restrictions were seemingly endless. New protocols

that mandated increased spending included but were not limited to

Please see **LEDGES**, page 7

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Trust violated: Soldiers' Home hearings depict a culture of noncompliance

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – A culture of poor health care, staff shortages and a lack of infection control measures at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke led to the COVID-19-related deaths of at least 76 elderly veterans this spring. On Oct. 20, family members of those killed or sickened by the unprecedented outbreak testified before a Joint Special Legislative Oversight Committee at Holyoke Community College.

For the speakers, a sense of closure was nowhere to be found. Present, however, was a platform to address a panel of concerned state senators and representatives.

Fighting back tears, loved ones emotionally detailed the negligent actions, lack of compassion and total absence of communication that transformed Holyoke's "Gem on the Hill" into a facility marred by too many deaths.

Susan Kenney, a Ware resident, arrived at the podium to discuss her father's last days. Charles Lowell, a 78-year-old U.S. Air Force veteran, succumbed to the novel coronavirus on April 15.

In the weeks leading to Lowell's death, Kenney and her mother tried desperately to communicate with the Soldiers' Home, a painstaking and largely unsuccessful endeavor. The total lack of transparency led Kenney to paint "Is my father alive?" on her vehicle and drive to the front of the facility, demanding answers.

"This could have been avoided. There were absolute treasures of people at that home," said Kenney. "That's the tragedy. People need to be held responsible for it. It needs to not happen again."

Kenney explained that safety proto-



Ware resident Susan Kenney was the first family member to testify about the conditions and problems at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home. She lost her father, Charles Lowell, to COVID-19, and 75 other veterans at the home died of virus as well.

cols had been ignored at the home long before the arrival of the pandemic. On numerous occasions, she complained to Chief Nursing Officer Vanessa Lauziere about a Certified Nursing Assistant, who would constantly kiss the veterans.

"It seemed to be for no purpose but to satisfy her own need," said Kenney. "That's my opinion; I understand that, but I also know from working in the health care field, it's not proper universal precautions or infection control standards. On March 11, I saw that same CNA, arm and arm with another veteran joking about the virus."



Courtesy photos by Holyoke Community College

John and Cheryl Turgeon of East Longmeadow testify about conditions at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home during hearings Tuesday in Holyoke.

In the aftermath of the outbreak, the facility's former Superintendent Bennett Walsh and former Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Clinton were indicted by a state grand jury on five counts of neglect and mistreatment of an older or disabled person. If found guilty, Walsh and Clinton will face decades in prison.

The Oct. 20 hearing, which was scheduled to resume on Oct. 22, was co-chaired by State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, of Methuen, and Sen. Walter Timilty, of Milton. The panel also consisted of state officials including Sen. John Veils, Sen. James Welch, Rep. Joseph Wagner, Rep. Michael Finn and Rep. Aaron Vega.

Following Kenney's testimony, East Longmeadow resident Cheryl Turgeon took to the microphone. Turgeon's father, 90-year-old Korean veteran Dennis Thresher, survived his bout with COVID-19, but has been unable to walk since March 28.

Turgeon offered a harrowing description of the conditions that surviving Soldiers' Home residents have faced over the past six months. Due to inactivity, Thresher has developed pressure ulcers, depres-



State Rep. Aaron Vega participated in listening to the stories of family members whose relatives died of COVID-19 in the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Tuesday at Holyoke Community College.

sion and nearly had his left toe and right foot amputated on account of neglect.

Please see **SOLDIERS**, page 3

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Sullivan addresses Town Hall complaints

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Several residents have complained that Town Hall remains closed to the public, but Town Administrator Michael Sullivan said that won't change his mind.

Apart from town employees, the building has been closed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sullivan made it clear that now is not the time to reopen the building. He believes that South Hadley's remote services have been successful since being implemented in March.

"We still haven't seen any service that we're not providing remotely or making other ways to deliver those services," he said. "We have to consider risk and reward. We were hoping that there would be some real progress [with COVID-19], but now they're saying that the numbers might go the other way. We certainly don't want to put employees at risk unnecessarily."

The tentative date to reopen Town Hall is Jan. 1, but that is

only a broad estimate. Sullivan has been open to all opinions on why Town Hall should be reopened but he's yet to hear an argument strong enough to dissuade him from his current stance.

"If someone makes a salient argument as to why it's necessary to open other than allowing people to roam around Town Hall on occasion, I think we have to be cognizant that we're trying to keep people safe. We're trying to keep people home. We don't want to act as a magnet drawing people in," said Sullivan, who is tired of reading negative social media posts that claim the town is "rabid" about keeping the building closed.

While one can argue over safety, reopening the building at 116 Main St. would certainly be costly from a financial standpoint. If the building reopens in the near future, it will only be after the town spends thousands of dollars retrofitting both stories to be compliant with new protocols that are specific to COVID-19 prevention.

"It's a very hard building to



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

Town Administrator Mike Sullivan recently discussed complaints regarding reopening the Town Hall.

make safe under all the protocols," said Sullivan. "If people are going to be using bathrooms and people are going to go from office to office, it's hard pressed if we can provide those services to make a rational argument to spend that additional money, even if it was CARES Act money, to outfit office after office because right now, it's very expensive."

Sullivan reiterated that the town's remote services have been quite effective and added that the Council on Aging and Dept. of Public Works have aided individuals who are struggling with the technology.

"We've put in place a protocol where the COA will work with any seniors if they have tech issues," he said. "We've made accommodations for them. If

someone needs a service, we'll find a way to deliver."

Sullivan made it clear that even the Town Hall Auditorium, which has traditionally hosted large public meetings, will be rendered somewhat obsolete following the pandemic. Future large-scale meetings are expected to be held inside of the state-of-the-art senior center that is currently under construction on Dayton St.

To the individuals who implore the town to reopen Town Hall, Sullivan offered a final, simple message. Until a stronger point can be delivered, the town will continue down its present course.

"The people that have approached me that want to go into Town Hall have still not been able to tell me why they want to come in Town Hall other than, 'I just want to come in Town Hall; it's my Town Hall,' but we're trying to make those decisions in a rational way," said Sullivan.

The Office of the Town Administrator can be reached at 413-538-5030.

SOLDIERS from page 2

"Their loneliness, their feelings of abandonment and being forgotten is clearly evident," she said. "They are not allowed outside many days. No fresh air, no sunshine and no Vitamin D. Even our incarcerated individuals have recreational opportunities outside while these veterans stay in their room for weeks on end still."

The facility's inability or unwillingness to communicate with the families of veterans who reside in the home has also angered Turgeon. She noted the administration consistently responds to inquiries by saying, "I hear you," without divulging an actual answer.

"I don't believe the current administration fully understands the veteran or the mission of the home. We're tired of their indifferent opinions [pertaining to] communication with us still," said Turgeon, who also complained about the absence of dental care and eye exams.

Roberta Twining, also of East Longmeadow, spoke on behalf of her 77-year-old husband Timothy Twining, a former paratrooper and retired Springfield police sergeant, who contracted the virus in the home.

"When the pandemic was hovering over our lives, the staff was not being transparent. I later learned that they were instructed not to tell our families anything," said Twining.

At the onset of the outbreak, veterans were consolidated due to a lack of staffing. Twining described the horrid conditions that faced her husband, a veteran, who was subjected to what several family members and employees have categorized as being Holocaust-like conditions.

"They moved him to the fourth floor,

squeezed him in a room with two others and his bed was against the wall. He also stated that he had no walker, wheelchair or buzzer and literally had to crawl and hold onto the walls to get to the bathroom down the hall," said Twining, who said he was denied a shower for 17 days.

Over the span of a week, Twining's husband was moved five times, yet she never received a call or email. Fortunately, Twining survived his ailment, but his struggles have persisted nonetheless.

"Everything continues to be a secret. It appears that this board has a gag order on the staff not to tell the families anything," she said. "My husband says that they lie and treat him and I like we're idiots."

The individuals who took the stand on Tuesday complimented the effort of the facility's courageous and undermanned staff, who put their lives at risk when COVID-19 began to make its mark. Twining firmly believes that the facility's board continues to jeopardize the operation.

"It wasn't that [staff] weren't caring; they were doing all they could. It's that their hands were tied. I believe that their hands are still tied and that they're muzzled now too," said Twining, who stated that without the arrival of the National Guard, "our precious home would have totally been wiped out."

All in all, five family members of veterans who were killed or sickened by COVID-19 testified on Oct. 20. Laurie Mandeville-Beaudette, who's father passed away in April, sadly noted that in recent weeks the facility removed signs that were posted on the campus to honor the lives that were lost.

"They just want us to go away," she said.

Timilty responded immediately, voic-

ing his disgust. He assured Beaudette and the other family members that the signs would be recovered if possible.

Following each speaker, Campbell extended her deepest sympathies. Unlike the facility's board, she made it clear the panel will not fail to act.

"We have great concern about ongoing communication issues now and also staffing issues now, and other issues that we will take immediate action on. Your per-

spectives are very much appreciated and will be helpful to us as we move forward," she said.

The committee has a deadline of March 31, 2021 to complete its investigation and submit a report to the state. Testimonials from the Oct. 22 hearing will be featured in next week's edition.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Battered corners: dog-
6. ___ Mater: one's school
10. National capital
14. Frogs and toads order
15. Bathrooms (French)
17. Praise
19. Witch
20. Consume
21. Pork and lamb are two types
22. Rocky peak
23. Women's undergarments
24. From end to end
26. Bed sheets
29. South Sudanese king
31. Dislike immensely
32. Diving seabird
34. Breathe noisily
35. Full of roots
37. Inside
38. Small island in a river
39. Tear into pieces
40. "CSI" actor George

41. Make less dense
43. Derogatory term for a country native
45. Pike and pickerel genus
46. Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr.)
47. Belgian city
49. "The Joy Luck Club" author
50. Essence of "Aloha"
53. Suggestions
57. One who overindulges
58. Expression
59. Maize dough
60. Make into leather
61. British noblemen

CLUES DOWN

1. One of two or more people or things
2. Small, deerlike water buffalo
3. Part of a ladder
4. Unit of work
5. Patriotic women
6. Fragrant essential oil
7. Aggressive, uncouth man
8. One thousandth of an inch
9. Brisk and cheerful readiness
10. Serving no practical purpose
11. Prevent from going forward
12. Camera part
13. Former CIA
16. Colorless, odorless gas
18. Long division of time
22. Atomic #73
23. Make a bleating sound
24. The kids love him
25. Female condition prior to menstrual period
27. Founder of Sikhism
28. Sudanese swamp
29. He/she can help with your finances
30. Part of the human body
31. Mortar trough
33. Greek island
35. Change pagination
36. Queens hip hop group
37. Precursor to the EU
39. A way to go on
42. Slender marine fish
43. Georgetown's mascot
44. Farm state
46. Military leader (abbr.)
47. Russian river
48. Teams' best pitchers
49. In a more positive way
50. Long French river
51. Reactive structures in organic chemistry
52. Distinctive practices
53. Male gypsy
54. When you hope to get there
55. Men's fashion accessory
56. Journalist Tarbell

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Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Two timely questions for the Garden Lady

Mary asked me this question: “I bought some fantastic pumpkins this year. I can’t wait to carve them into Jack O’ Lanterns with the kids! Is it possible to save the seeds and plant them next year? I’d love to end up with the same pumpkin variety again.”

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

I am in the same boat, Mary! I love the pumpkins my kids chose this year and will be attempting to save the seeds myself. I think it is definitely worth the chance, but first let’s give you a lesson in genetics. Pumpkins belong to the genus Cucurbita. Cucurbita pepo is the easiest to figure out. Its members are what you might think of as a traditional pumpkin grown in the north-eastern part of the country: orange with a woody stem and a hard outer skin. Teeny ‘Jack-Be-Little’ as well as the heirloom ‘Connecticut Field’ and sweet ‘New England Pie’ all belong to the species pepo. Unfortunately or not, gourds, acorn squash, spaghetti squash and summer squashes do as well, so if the pumpkin farmer grew any other variety of pepo cross pollination may have occurred and the plants you grow next year may not be true to type from the seeds you save.

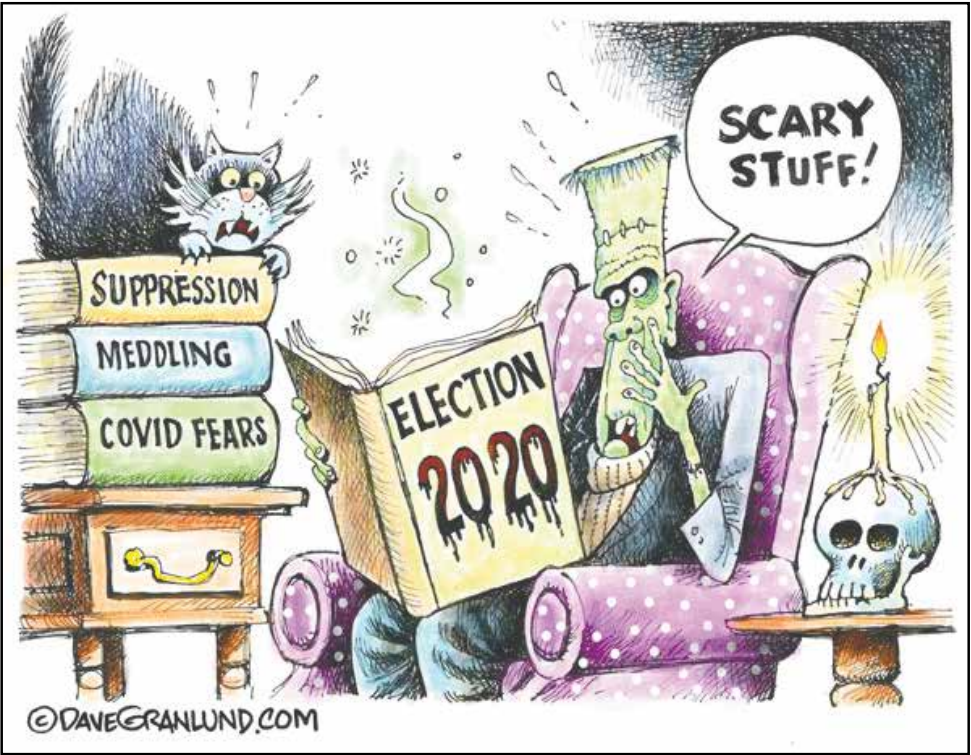
If you’d like to experiment, let’s assume that the pumpkins were the one and only inhabitants of pumpkin patch. The actual process of saving seeds is very simple. After hollowing out your favorite pumpkins, those with the attributes you like the best and want to pass on to future generations, simply wash the seeds quickly in a colander, blot on a paper towel and place on a pie plate for several days until completely dry. Store for the winter in an envelope marked with the variety and date in a cool, humidity-free spot. In late winter you can easily conduct a germination test. The easiest way to do it is to sow a few seeds in a paper cup filled with soil and placed in a warm spot. Record how many come up and then plan accordingly when you sow your hills come springtime.

This question came from Jeremy, who reads the column in the Palmer Journal Register: “Can you give me some tips for digging up my cherished rosemary plant and overwintering it in the house?”

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis), the herb of remembrance. For many years I brought my plants in and out with the seasons, and they got amazingly large. I wish you the same luck. The key to growing it successfully indoors is “cool but sunny.” My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren’t as fortunate, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents.

But first, make sure you give it the best possible start by salvaging as much of the root ball as possible. This will minimize the shock of being potted up. Position your shovel along the “drip line” of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference. After you’ve made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift. Have a pot ready—one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth. My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine too. Steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly. I usually put a couple of inches of potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a hard frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold. You can use this same advice for other tender herbs such as French lavender, bay tree and scented geraniums.

I am in the same boat, Mary! I love the pumpkins my kids chose this year and will be attempting to save the seeds myself. I think it is definitely worth the chance, but first let’s give you a lesson in genetics. Pumpkins belong to the genus Cucurbita. Cucurbita pepo is the easiest to figure out. Its members are what you might think of as a traditional pumpkin grown in the north-eastern part of the country: orange with a woody stem and a hard outer skin. Teeny ‘Jack-Be-Little’ as well as the heirloom ‘Connecticut Field’ and sweet ‘New England Pie’ all belong to the species pepo. Unfortunately or not, gourds, acorn squash, spaghetti squash and summer squashes do as well, so if the pumpkin farmer grew any other variety of pepo cross pollination may have occurred and the plants you grow next year may not be true to type from the seeds you save.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank You

As the third grade teachers from Mosier Elementary School we would like to give an enormous “thank you” to the 2019-2020 third grade students at Mosier Elementary School, their families, and caregivers for working together as a team with teachers to create such meaningful, well written poems. The “Living Through History” poetry series was based on the student’s perspective during the Coronavirus pandemic.

It was important to the students to feel/ know that they had a “voice” during a time when life choices felt out of their control.

Our kiddos have truly had their whole lives turned upside down. We get the perspective of the world from adults in countless ways every day but most don’t stop to ask how our kiddos are viewing this total upheaval. If they do, those thoughts generally aren’t broadcasted to the public. They’re living through history, as are we all, but later in life they will have such unique experiences to share. It’s important to impress this upon them as well as reminding them that when

this is discussed in history classes years after our time, they will have written down primary resources for others to learn from. How cool is that?

Special thanks to the Town Reminder and editor Melina Bourdeau.

We really appreciate your willingness to publish our students’ poems! It was a wonderful way to boost student engagement and infuse a bit of excitement into a very challenging time.

Thank you to all who took the time out of your busy day to relax, and reflect upon a third grader’s perspective. They are amazing!

With Great Appreciation,

The Third Grade Team:
Kim Desorcy, Melissa Fletcher,
Mya Lam, Leah McCarthy,
Allyson Saul, Sonja Sherwood,
Deborah Vanderpoel, and special
thanks to long-term sub Denise Harvey!

GUEST COLUMN

America’s standing in the world

By Lee Hamilton
Guest columnist

Call it American exceptionalism or not, the American people have always embraced the idea that we live in an exceptional country. We are grateful to be Americans. We take a lot of pride in our country, as we should. Pride and patriotism are among America’s greatest strengths.

Having said that, we need to be clear-eyed about our limits. Sometimes we tend to think we should always be No. 1, no matter what metrics we apply. That attitude can lead to arrogance and a lack of interest in the world.

There are always things we can learn from other countries.

South Korea’s success in containing the COVID-19 pandemic is instructive. The U.S. has just over six times the population of South Korea, but we have had nearly 300 times as many COVID-19 cases and nearly 500 times as many deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University data. Other Asian countries have also had notable success in containing the virus. We could learn from them.

Recently, the New York Times reported on the 2020 Social Progress Index, which ranks countries on measures of health, safety, nutrition, education, freedom, the envi-

ronment and other factors associated with quality of life. It’s a bit of a shock that the U.S. comes in 28th. By some measures, we are outstanding: Our universities are the best in the world, but we are No. 91 (out of 163 countries) in access to quality basic education. We have the best medical technology, but we are No. 97 in access to quality health care.

By most measures, the U.S. was the unchallenged world leader, roughly from the end of Word War II to the early years of the 21st century. We had a positive, optimistic vision of our role in the world and the importance of our global engagement. We built the institutions that created the post-World War II international order. But from Vietnam forward through Iraq and Afghanistan, we learned some of the constraints on our power.

These challenges prompted us to re-examine our role in the world. Gradually, we accepted the costs as well as the benefits of being No. 1. The question arose: Did we really want to be the world’s leader in all things?

The issue of America’s role in the world – what it is, and what it should be – is the central question in U.S. foreign policy. My sense is that we should play a prominent

Please see HAMILTON, page 7

A QUOTE

of NOTE
“ This could have been avoided. There were absolute treasures of people at that home. That’s the tragedy. People need to be held responsible for it. It needs to not happen again. ”

said Susan Kenney in the story “Trust violated: Soldiers’ Home hearings depict a culture of noncompliance.”

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

TOWN Reminder

The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Melina Bourdeau
townreminder@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Maureen McGarrett Hall
mmcgarrett@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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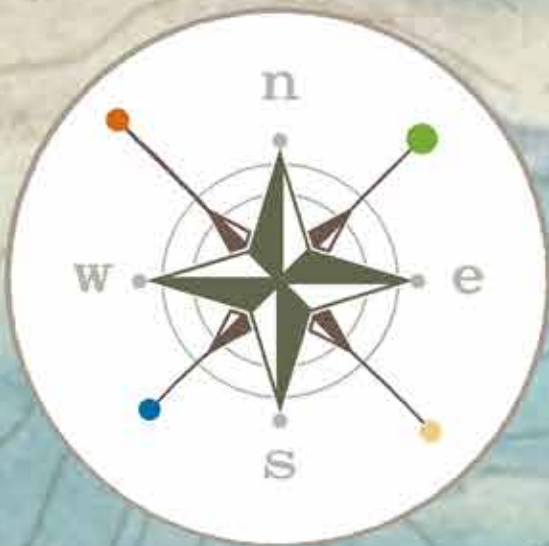
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South Hadley Division of Water Pollution Control awarded grant

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Division of Water Pollution Control was awarded a grant from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The LISFF Grant Program, a joint effort by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, funds local projects in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont that promote public education, conservation, pollutant reduction, or habitat restoration for the Long Island Sound. The South Hadley WWTP discharges directly into the Connecticut River, which flows into Long Island Sound.

The South Hadley WPC project,

Upgrade of the South Hadley WWTP to Decrease Nitrogen into Long Island Sound, was awarded \$132,600, with a 40% Town match. The project scope includes installing additional monitoring equipment to better manage plant processes relative to nitrogen removal, and includes upgrading existing, outdated equipment and control systems.

Once complete, the project will minimize point source Nitrogen discharged annually into the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. To date, the design phase has been completed and equipment installations will begin in November. It is anticipated that the entire project will be completed by early 2021.

Granby library’s teen summer reading prizes raffle Oct. 22 to 30

GRANBY – Teens, if you have read at least one book for the “Got Summer Reading?” program, come by the library lobby during open hours for your raffle tickets (one ticket per book read.)

Use your raffle tickets for raffles and/or to buy books from a special book cart in the lobby. Numbered prizes will be in the lobby cabinets. Write your first name, phone number and prize number on each ticket. Please print clearly.

Put your “Got Summer Reading?” sheet with book titles written on it, in the library book drop to validate your raffle tickets.

A large jar is supplied to put all raffle tickets in - don’t forget to include the

prize number you want on your tickets.

In summary:

1. Use raffle tickets for raffle - If you would like a chance to win a raffle prize with your tickets - Write your first name, phone number and prize number on each ticket. Please print clearly. Put raffle tickets in large plastic jar-orange table.
2. Use raffle tickets to buy books in lobby. Pay for books by putting your tickets in the pail provided.

For your safety, only one person/family is allowed in the lobby at a time.

If you do not take a book on the Book Cart that you touch, there will be a quarantine basket for those books.



Photos by Dalton Zbierski
[L to R] SRO Josh Helms, Family Pizza owner Al Falvo, South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition Coordinator Sue Cook and coalition Director Steve Fleming pose for a photo inside of Family Pizza on Newtown St. last Thursday.

Family Pizza owner Al Falvo has been instrumental to the South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition’s Sticker Shock Campaign.

Musa Cayan, an employee at Route33 Pizza, labels pizza boxes with stickers encouraging parents to secure their alcohol and prescription drugs.

CAMPAIGN from page 1

tunity to serve as the coalition’s director.

Fleming has been in close contact with new SRO Josh Helems, who contributed to the sticker distribution on Oct. 15. Fleming was most impressed by Al Falvo, owner of Family Pizza.

“We came here last week and asked Al, one of the owners, if he would allow us to do,” said Fleming. “He was like, ‘Yeah, of course,’ with no hesitation. He told us to get more stickers so we can do it again.”

Falvo made it clear that he would help the cause by any means, adding that he could remember most of South Hadley’s

homegrown officers as teenagers entering his shop. The business owner pledged his allegiance to the Sticker Shock Campaign.

“They came in and approached me and asked if I wanted to do it. I said, ‘Sure, why not?’ It makes you feel good. Anything for the kids to keep them safe; these programs are wonderful. We have grand-kids ourselves. We’ll do anything we can to help. Whatever it takes, we’ll do,” said Falvo.

Musa Cayan, a driver at Route33 Pizza, has been slapping stickers onto pizza boxes before delivering them to customers. He explained the significance of every small sticker.

“We’re trying to make a difference. We want to see people happy. It’s really important for the kids. I have kids; I know that it’s really important and that it will make things safer for them,” said Cayan.

Helems was named to his position earlier this month and accompanied Cook and Fleming as they drove around town in separate vehicles. Helems spent the past two years as a drug abatement response team ofc. and will use the experience to leave a positive impression on South Hadley teens while working alongside the coalition.

brought about by COVID-19, students have been unable to participate in the campaign this fall.

The pandemic has been troublesome in additional ways, noted Cook. Many youths have found the extensive isolation to be suitable for experimentation, and the coalition is working hard to dissuade that inclination.

“Kids are curious. The may very well figure that since they’re home, it’s a safe place to experiment. Of course, it’s not,” said Cook, divulging why the businesses selected were asked to participate.

“A lot of kids get pizza; a lot of families in town do too so we just thought a gentle reminder about locking up alcohol and locking up medicines since the kids were home for an extended period of time probably unsupervised more than they usually are, it just would be a great reminder,” she continued.

In Massachusetts, serving alcohol to an individual is punishable by a \$2,000 fine and/or imprisonment. Serving minors could also lead to a child endangerment charge, punishable by 10 years in jail and/or a \$150,000 fine.

The Sticker Shock campaign is confident that local parents will secure their alcohol and prescription drugs and dispose of expired prescriptions. The simple act of securing those items can make a world of difference, and good parenting can do the rest.

“Don’t be afraid to ask your kids questions; don’t be afraid to be the bad guy,” said Cook. “As much as we want to be their friends, we have to be the adult.”

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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LEDGES from page 1

ed to single cart rider restrictions, added cleaning protocols for golf carts and the building, increased supplies such as sanitizer dispensers and paper products and no alcohol sales without a food order.

“For the most part, golf has been good, but I think that every person in the restaurant business will attest that this is no time to be running a restaurant,” said Fontaine. “We’ve made some changes from hours to staff, but with the new rules of serving food with alcohol, we have to have a cook there the entire time so that we don’t break the law.”

Fontaine expects that the restaurant will close in November. Because the start of the golf season was delayed until May 7, negating several profitable months, the course will remain open until winter weather arrives.

Recreation Director Andrew Rogers, also present during the meeting, alluded to another issue that has led to confusion on the course this season.

“A significant challenge is that Connecticut was operating under totally different guidelines. People who were playing there regularly coming up, anything in Massachusetts was very different for them,” he said.

The staff at the Ledges has done well over the past five-plus months. Many unfair complaints were directed towards employees, but Fontaine noted that they took the comments in stride, responding with smiles.

“You can see some of the reviews online. We’re a stickler for the rules but we’re very proud that no one has gotten sick on our watch,” said Fontaine.

Numerous statistics were presented during Tuesday evening’s meeting. It was identified that approximately seven events that would have drawn 50 or more people were cancelled in the month of August alone.

While the operation itself took a loss this year, largely due to the hampering restrictions placed on the restaurant, Ledges outperformed its 2019 campaign in multiple facets.

Total golf revenue rose from \$546,616 in 2019 to \$558,575 this year. Golf cart rentals also increased from \$71,756 to \$91,795 in 2020.

Town Administrator Mike Sullivan was amused by one specific source of increased revenue.

“One of the things that I found interesting when I looked at the in-depth numbers that we have in the accounting department was that the driving range numbers are actually up. Not only are people out looking for an activity, they’re trying to get better at golf as

well,” said Sullivan.

Alcohol sales decreased but not by the expected margin. Sullivan noted that sales were down only \$50 a day on average over the past 90 days.

“All in all, I have to compliment you,” said Sullivan to Fontaine. “You’ve done a good job in a very difficult time in bringing this in close to the numbers that we predicted.”

“

How do you manage a golf course with COVID? That’s the hardest question I think that we’ll ever have to answer.

”

Mike Fontaine
Course Superintendent

Damage caused by several storms also impacted Ledges this summer. A July storm wreaked havoc on the operation, Fontaine recalled.

“In July, unfortunately, we took a major lightning strike during a thunderstorm, affecting the irrigation system severely. Three quarters of the system went down. The computer and also the sewer pumps were hit. It was a main line running from out on the golf course back to the maintenance building,” he said, adding that repairs have since been made.

Sullivan stated that there was a \$128,000 loss this fiscal year; the money is not expected to be taken from the town’s general funds but instead an enterprise fund made available by the state’s Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

Before Fontaine exited the meeting, Selectboard member Bruce Forcier acknowledged the professionalism and grit that was displayed by all those affiliated with Ledges this year, concluding his statement with an important detail.

“I think [Fontaine] is being very humble about what went on,” said Forcier. “Up against weather and especially up against COVID, his staff have gone above and beyond what’s needed. I think the biggest takeaway from [the data] is that it’s a good thing the town is not operating the golf course and that IGM is.”

Granby

Granby Preservation Society hosts drive through event



This is Covid the Clown. He is not allowing anyone inside Kellogg Hall this year for haunted house tours. Instead, the public is invited to drive through the parking lot get a bag of treats

GRANBY – Due to COVID-19 Granby Preservation Society will not be able to hold its annual haunted house.

However a drive through event will be held on Halloween night from 5 to 7 p.m. at Kellogg Hall.

All treat bags were prepared following strict COVID-19 guidelines. Treat bags are limited, first come first served and all COVID-19 guidelines must be followed.

For more info contact: Dulce - dcgendreau@gmail.com or Cindy - cedg14@gmail.com.

HAMILTON from page 4

leadership role in world affairs, recognizing we should actively engage in the world, that our values and ideals are our best tools.

We should be neither interventionist nor isolationist. Use of force, while always at the ready, should be a last, not a first resort. Instead, we should emphasize our economic and political strength, our diplomacy, our support for development, fair trade, and our efforts to secure arms control agreements and combat climate change.

With our goal to spread democracy and freedom, our foreign policy has a strong moral component. But we also have to be pragmatic and sensitive to other nations, especially allies, work to maintain the support of the American people, and defend our vital interests.

Such an approach will strengthen and sustain America’s standing in the world.

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Tigers take care of Rams



Sienna Hill lunges after a ball to keep it from going out of bounds.



Ella Laliberte tries to keep her mask up while running down the ball.



Myah Houle advances after the ball.



Briana Sosa dribbles down the field.



Teagan Gawron quickly attempts to change direction to evade her opponent.



South Hadley's offense pursues a loose ball.



Siobhan McAllister passes the ball way.

Goalie Daniel Gauvin pounces on the ball for the Rams.

Belchertown bests Granby boys

GRANBY – In an early morning game held last Saturday, Belchertown visited Granby and came with a dominating 8-0 victory. Belchertown did a great job maintaining possession for most of the match.

Max Brown heads up the field with the ball.

Daniel Gauvin tries to make a save.

Steven Torres possesses the ball in the middle of the field.

Nolan Sullivan tries to keep the ball.

High school play continues as high-risk communities emerge

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – It is clear to many MIAA official, school administrations, and athletic directors, that the Fall 1 season was not going to be without hiccups. Already, a few student-athletes have tested positive for the coronavirus, and the bubble of Springfield teams have had to shut down their sports due to Springfield remaining high-risk for multiple weeks in a row. But more locally, a few communities have reacted to being in the “red” differently. Belchertown, widely known now to have stricter guidelines for athletics than other communities, has now had to postpone a number of games scheduled against neighboring Amherst Regional High School. Amherst is in a Hampshire “bubble” league with Belchertown, South Hadley, and Granby among their opponents. While other schools within the bubble are continuing to play against Amherst, now in its second consecutive week of being a high-risk community for COVID-19, Belchertown will not allow Amherst to come to Belchertown, and will not travel there until Amherst is no longer a high-risk community. The decision not to play Amherst was made by the school department on advice from Belchertown’s health director. However, the Board of Health has not made any orders dictating how Belchertown High School approaches issues with sports, including the ban on spectators for the time being. Another community in the high-risk category is Holyoke. Holyoke High School has been classified as high-risk for two weeks as of Oct. 16, but teams other than West Springfield have continued to play against them. Holyoke High School Athletic Director Melanie Martin said West Springfield will not play against Holyoke until Holyoke

Please see **PLAY**, page 9

Public Safety

South Hadley Police

Compiled by
Melina Bourdeau
Townreminder@turley.com

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the South Hadley Police log and arrests for the week of Sept 28 to Oct. 11. The information was provided by Chief Jennifer Gunderson based on review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Mass General Law prohibits the release of names of those arrested for domestic incidents.

Monday, Sept. 28
11:11 p.m. – A Spring St. resident reported a bb shot through the window of their residence. No injuries were reported. There are no suspects at this time.

Wednesday, Sept. 30
2:53 p.m. – An individual reported being criminally harassed, but did not wish to go forward with any criminal charged at this time.

8:21 p.m. – A Lathrop St. resident reported their dog was struck by car after escaping the residence. The vehicle left the scene and was reportedly a light-colored SUV. The dog is expected to recover from its injuries.

Thursday, Oct. 1
6:40 a.m. – Officers responded to a one vehicle crash on Route 202. The vehicle was travelling north on ramp when the operator became distracted commotion in the back seat. The vehicle left the roadway, stuck a pole and rolled onto its side. The operator sustained minor injuries.

8:05 p.m. – Officers responded to two males in physical altercation on Hadley St. Upon their arrival, the males were separated. Neither party wished to pursuit a complaint.

9:46 a.m. –Officers received a report of a past larceny at the White Wing Service Station where a person was observed taking two bottles of liquor. When officers arrived the suspect was getting into a vehicle. The officers spoke with the owners of the vehicle and the person was identified and was summons on a charge of shoplifting.

10:36 a.m. – Alexander Reed, 32 of 879 Worthington St. Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of drugs.

While an officer was working a paving detail on Route 116, they observed an operator of vehicle who failed to obey their commands. Upon speaking with the operator, the person was identified and was believed to be operating under the influence of marijuana. The suspect was arrested and arraigned the following day in Eastern Hampshire District Court.

11:34 a.m. – Officers responded to assist South Hadley Fire District #2 with a suspected overdose. The person was transported to the hospital.

Friday, Oct. 2
12:11 a.m. – Officers took a report of a Normandy Rd resident who saw a sus-

picious vehicle in the area. The caller reported that their daughter was stalked and harassed by someone. The subject was found in the area and spoken to by the officers.

Saturday, Oct. 3
8:54 a.m. –Officers took a report from a Maple St. resident who said their vehicle was damaged. Both of the driver's side tires were flat and appeared to be cut. There are no suspects at this time.

11 a.m. – A Woodlawn St. resident reported seeing an individual checking the cash box on their farm stand on Granby Rd. There was no money taken from the box. There were two other recent events of attempted to get into the cash box.

Sunday, Oct. 4
2:32 p.m. –An Abbey Lane resident reported their vehicle was stolen from their backyard. There are no suspects at this time.

4:16 p.m. –A Hadley Village Rd resident reported a stolen bicycle. There are no known suspects at this time.

Monday, Oct. 5
2:39 p.m. – A Bardwell St. resident reported their children were threatened at Beachgrounds Park. Officers arrived on scene and found one juvenile threatened another with a knife. The juvenile will be summons to court on two counts of assault by dangerous weapon and malicious damage under \$1,200.

Tuesday, Oct. 6
9:43 – Officer responded to a report of a self-storage unit that was broken into. The matter is an ongoing investigation.

9:44 p.m. – Joseph Canini, 26, who is homeless, was arrested on two charges of breaking and entering to vehicle at nighttime, two charges of larceny under \$1,200, four charges of larceny of a credit card and five warrants.

Officers received reports from people that vehicles were being broken into on North Main St. They responded the report of received another report about a suspicious male who came down Prospect St. The party was walking on School St. when the officers stopped them. During the interaction with the suspect, it was found he was in possession of numerous items including a laptop that was previously reported as stolen. Items were recovered including items that had not yet been claimed. The party was identified and charged accordingly. Photos of items were listed on the South Hadley Police Department Facebook to be returned to their owners.

Thursday, Oct. 7
1:13 p.m. – Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Baker and Williamsett St. One vehicle was travelling north in the area of the Big Y entrance when a vehicle going in the opposite direction tried to turn. The vehicle turning into path of the first vehicle resulting in a collision. No injuries were reported.

9:22 p.m. – Alexander Shanwenda, 27, of 14 Holgate Ave, Chicopee, was arrested on charges of a second offense of operating under the influence of alcohol, leaving the scene of property damage, no

inspection sticker and possession of an open container of alcohol.

Officers dispatched to area of Smith St. for a hit and run one-vehicle crash. A short time later, there was report of possible second crash at Main and Lamp St. Officers determined it was the same vehicle involved as the first accident. The suspect drove into the side of a parked flatbed tow truck parked on the side of the road. Officers located the vehicle and the operator was identified. Upon speaking with the suspect, officers believed he was under the influence of alcohol. He had a prior charge of operating under the influence. He was arraigned on Oct. 9.

Friday, Oct. 9
11:44 a.m. – Bernadette Mcilrath, 62, of 9 Graves St., South Hadley, was arrests on a warrant.

4:03 p.m. –Officers took a report from a School St. resident reported three bicycles stolen from the residence. There are no suspects at this time.

4:03 p.m. –A Grandview St. resident reported an individual taking photos of several houses. The officers located the subject who was an amateur photographer taking photos of decorations.

Sunday, Oct. 11
7:37 p.m. –Tobias Parsons, 42, of 16 Upper River Rd., South Hadley, was arrested on charges of failing to yield and operating under the influence of alcohol. Officers were on patrol on Lathrop St. when vehicle was observed approaching the intersection of Cedar Ridge Rd. marked by four way stop signs. The vehicle failed to stop at the signs and an officer pulled the operator over. The driver was believed to be under the influence and was charged accordingly. They were arraigned Oct. 13.

Turley Sports joins Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your

Granby Police

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 169 calls for the week of Oct. 9 through Oct. 15. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Friday, Oct. 9
4:15 p.m. – Officers investigated a two car accident on West State Street. No injuries were reported.

5:02 p.m. – Officers investigated an identity theft report, the incident is still under investigation.

Saturday, Oct. 10
11:30 a.m. – Officers investigated an identity theft report. The incident is still under investigation.

Monday, Oct. 12
1:27 p.m. – Officers investigated a theft from a resident's yard. The incident is still under investigation.

6:41 p.m. – Officer investigated a two-car accident on East Street. No injuries were reported.

Tuesday, Oct. 13
10 p.m. – A citation issued for unlicensed motor vehicle operation.

Wednesday, Oct. 14
10:36 a.m. – Officers investigated an identity theft report. The incident is still under investigation.

Thursday, Oct. 15
5:40 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car accident on Pleasant Street. No injuries were reported.

PLAY from page 8

has been “yellow” or moderate-risk or better for two consecutive weeks.

Other communities, like Agawam, are following Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidance, which says three weeks of data are needed before a school considers ceasing play with a high-risk community.

“That’s the guidance we received from DESE,” said Agawam Athletic Director David Stratton. “We have no problem playing against Holyoke.” Agawam was even set to host Holyoke in field hockey on Oct. 16, and played at Holyoke in girls soccer on Oct. 7, the same day Holyoke received it’s “red” designation.

In the Hampden East League that was created, East Longmeadow was a

community placed at high-risk.

Among the schools in that bubble are Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Ludlow, and Minnechaug.

Ludlow Athletic Director Tim Brillo and Minnechaug Athletic Director Michael Roy both confirmed last week they have not received orders from their respective health departments to cease any type of play with red school. “Even though communities are in high risk,” said Roy. “The guidance is to not shut everything down and wait for three weeks of data.”

In what is perceived widely as a “second wave” of the virus, officials are still hopeful to get through the Fall 1 season without any type of widespread shutdown.

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Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that a SEALED BID auction with bids due Monday, November 2, 2020 at 9 a.m. Vehicles will be available for viewing on October 27 through October 29, 2020 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. by appointment only. Please call 413-534-5373 for appointments.

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Bayliner Boat REG# MS6784AH BL4F050X048343 Angel Bou 20 View St. Holyoke, MA 01040

2000 Suzuki GSX 600F JS1GN79A0Y2103224 Nurit G. Niskala 4 Shelley Dr.

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2005 Toyota Sienna 5TDZA23C05S284059 Vanessa M. Meikle 23 Webster Ct. Amherst, MA 01002

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2005 Audi A4 Quattro WAUDF68E85A465742 Garsesus A. White 83 Woodside Ter. Westfield, MA 01085

2008 Hyundai Elantra KMH DU46D28U345909 Shemike S. Ruiz P.O. Box 1099 Holyoke, MA 01040

2009 Nissan Altima 1N4AL21E39C105750 James A. Wallace 17 Highland Ave. Apt. #84 West Springfield, MA 01089

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4A3AB36F67E045515 Jennifer Ortiz 123 Tokeneke Rd. Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Honda Civic 2HGES15293H503477 Angel M. Quinones 134 Oak St. Holyoke, MA 01040

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Culinary teacher develops non-alcoholic beverage



By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Growing tired of his endless pursuit to discover a delicious, healthy non-alcoholic beverage, South Hadley resident Ezra Bleau recently launched “NA Brews.” Bleau, the Chief Beer Ofc., believes that the venture will normalize the presence of non-alcoholic drinks at a range of establishments.

Bleau, a 30-year-old chef and culinary arts and hospitality instructor at South Hadley High School, embarked on a mission during the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic. He revealed what led him to seek an alternative to alcohol.

“When quarantine happened, a lot of my friends and even myself were kind of worried about our beverage intakes,” said Bleau. “I decided to stop drinking be-

Ezra Bleau, a 30-year-old instructor at South Hadley High School, recently launched “NA Brews,” a venture that produces non-alcoholic beverages.

cause of medical issues, but I love beer and am always looking for good quality beer.”

Bleau quickly realized that quality non-alcoholic beer is sparse, bland and expensive. He observed that, outside of alcohol, most restaurants only offer soda, juice or water.

Bleau grew disappointed at his apparent lack of options before deciding to chase his vision of creating an alternative beverage. Out of the dilemma came NA Brews; Bleau is now offering a selection of non-alcoholic brews that he will deliver straight to your door.

“It started in August and has grown into its own animal; something bigger than we expected when we started. There’s such a tight [connection] with the non-alcoholic community; people want options,” said Bleau.

Over the past several months, Bleau has supplied several local restaurants with NA Brews and has heard positive reviews. He detailed his goal.

“My next step was to increase the market share of non-alcoholic beers. I’m growing that market to give people options,” said Bleau.

“I want to change the system that we live in and make it more inclusive for everyone that doesn’t want to drink or feel hungover the next day or have health issues. It’s been growing and growing.”

Bleau described NA Brews as being a three-phase company that focuses on production, distribution and online retail; he soon plans to reach out to potential investors.

Consumers are already contacting Bleau, claiming that NA Brews has changed their lives, he said. Bleau is not surprised that the endeavor has been successful thus far.

“It’s not specifically for people who can’t drink alcohol for whatever reason,” he said. “It’s for Generation Z; millennials are getting to the point that they’d rather partake in marijuana than drink alcohol but they still want that beer aspect of, ‘Hey, I’m with my friends; I’m going to the brewery.’”

One day, Bleau envisions NA Brews being available in any corner store or 7-Eleven. Bleau explained that NA Brews can be consumed by individuals of all

ages and expressed his belief that the startup could transcend the beverage industry.

“If you want a nice drink that doesn’t have much sugar in it, is low on carbohydrates and is low on calories, what are you drinking, Diet Coke? My biggest goal is to redefine ‘beverage’ in general,” said Bleau. “You have soda, you have tea, you have alcoholic beer. I honestly feel like this could be a whole new beverage option.”

Be it at a football game or a night out with friends, Bleau feels strongly that NA Brews offers up a beverage for individuals who don’t plan to imbibe.

“A lot of people don’t like the effects of alcohol but like the social aspect of it,” said Bleau. “Say, you’re going to a work meeting, and there’s alcohol being served, and you don’t want to make a fool of yourself; you want to be very respectable and presentable. Just grab one of these instead of a regular alcohol. Wake up feeling refreshed and hydrated.”

For more information on NA Brews, one can visit its Facebook page.

BOH from page 1

cannot approve the plan without Board of Health approval. The health board’s authority in the matter was stated by Mead, Talerman & Costa LLC, the law firm that represents the town, in a July 10 memorandum.

“A planning board may not approve a subdivision plan which does not comply with the recommendation of the Board of Health,” the memo states. “The Board of Health has somewhat broad authority to approve or disapprove and to make specific findings as to areas shown on the plan that cannot be used for building sites without injury to the public health.”

Board of Health members based their decision to deny approval on the refusal by Chicopee Concrete Services to demonstrate that the project would not cause injury to the public.

In their unanimous decision to deny approval, health board members Jessica Collins, chairperson, and members Karen Walsh Pio and Tony Judge specifically noted the hazards posed by the planned extensive earth removal from the site.

“The removal of 400,000 cu-

bic yards of material to the depth of 120 feet will allow the intrusion of harmful substances into the public water supply,” and “placement of roads and houses on top of the aquifer and in the recharge area at decreased elevations to the water table will allow the increased intrusion of harmful substances in the public water supply” the board stated in its decision.

In their deliberations before their vote, health board members cited the refusal by CCS and its representatives to adequately address concerns raised in the section on hydrogeological aspects in a peer review by the consulting firm Weston & Sampson on the proposed development. Those concerns include the developer’s refusal to address the impact from loss of protective cover for the recharge area; the contaminant risk from roads and households based on that loss of cover; and provide proof for their assertions through hydrogeology modeling.

CCS representative Robert Levesque’s response to the peer review points include: “The HAS (Hydrogeological Assessment Study in the CCS application) does not address the

potential for impacts to groundwater quality which may result from household contaminants and other land uses associated with residential development because said uses are already prohibited or restricted under the Town of South Hadley’s Water Supply Protection District regulations. The use of such contaminants is illegal. Therefore, looking at the hypothetical impact of an illegal activity is not scientific in approach, is arbitrary and is not warranted given the current state and local environmental regulations.”

Levesque continued in his response: “Furthermore, the installation of the District 2 well was complete subsequent to the construction and occupation of most of the existing residential properties within Aquifer Zone II districts throughout the Town of South Hadley. In recent years multiple homes have been constructed in the aquifer zone II and no such study has been required and no efforts to secure land or prohibit development of residential uses have been advanced. The scope of the HAS is appropriate based on the applicable regulation of the Zone II.” Collins then stated CCS has the

obligation to prove the safety of its plan, not the town. “It is the applicant’s responsibility to prove that the work that is proposed is in conformance with the appropriate regulations and does not harm public health. The applicant has attempted to shift that responsibility on the town and the town has no obligation to undertake independent investigation other than relying on its peer review experts.” Collins stated. “To that end, the applicant has provided insufficient evidence to allow the board to determine if the proposed earth removal will increase potential risk to public drinking water due to the changed recharge area.” Describing dialogue with CCS representatives at a Sept. 15 public hearing, Board of Health member Karen Walsh Pio recounted an exchange with the CCS representatives.

“They (CCS) in fact did not do that (assuage our concerns)... And when I said to them specifically, ‘Can you offer any assurances that this is going to be a safe process and not contaminate the water supply? They said ‘no.’ And as far as I’m concerned that was the most significant thing that I heard at that entire last

meeting,” said Walsh Pio. “We asked for assurances, we asked for new information and they had neither of those things to give us.” “I join Karen in that particular concern. I think the board’s concerns about the project are well founded,” Judge said. “I am not convinced that they have even begun to answer some critical questions that need to be answered. And so I feel as does Karen as she has recently stated.” Planning Board deliberations are set to continue on Nov. 2 at 6:45 p.m. The Board of Health decision will be discussed.

Also, remaining questions about the hydrogeological, traffic and storm water implications, design standards, and the scope of the definitive plan have been submitted to the peer reviewer and applicant and will be discussed at that time. The virtual meeting can be viewed live on South Hadley Community Television, cable channel 15. The meeting will be archived and can be viewed at home, using the SCTV website <https://shctv15.com/shctv-archive/> and navigating to the desired video.

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